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| <p>(51) <b>International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>:</b> <b>A61F 5/01</b></p> <p>(21) <b>International Application Number:</b><br/>PCT/GB2003/002666</p> <p>(22) <b>International Filing Date:</b> 20 June 2003 (20.06.2003)</p> <p>(25) <b>Filing Language:</b> English</p> <p>(26) <b>Publication Language:</b> English</p> <p>(30) <b>Priority Data:</b><br/>0214472.3 22 June 2002 (22.06.2002) GB</p> <p>(71) <b>Applicant and</b><br/>(72) <b>Inventor:</b> <b>MOORE, Timothy, Ian</b> [GB/GB]; 5 Tormead, Hythe, Hampshire SO45 5AW (GB).</p> <p>(74) <b>Agent:</b> <b>TARGETT, Kenneth, Stanley</b>; 48 Meadowsweet Way, Horton Heath, Hampshire SO50 7PD (GB).</p> <p>(81) <b>Designated States (national):</b> AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,</p> | <p>LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.</p> <p>(84) <b>Designated States (regional):</b> ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p><b>Declaration under Rule 4.17:</b></p> <p>— <i>as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations</i></p> <p><b>Published:</b></p> <p>— <i>with international search report</i></p> <p>— <i>before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments</i></p> <p><i>For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.</i></p> |
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**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

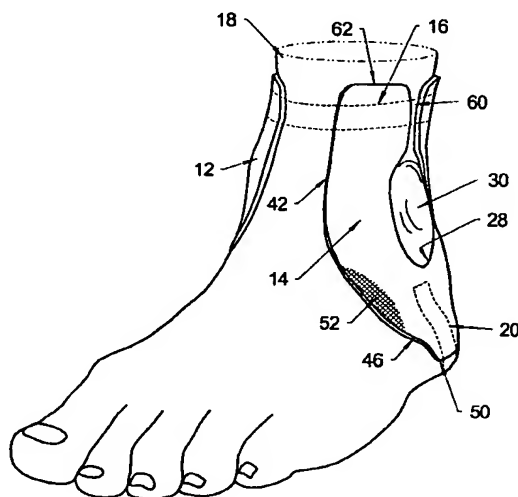
— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

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**(54) Title:** ANKLE BRACES



**(57) Abstract:** A shell (14) for an ankle brace is semi-rigid and has an inner surface shaped to conform to a side surface of a person's leg (18) between an upper extent (62) above the person's ankle bone (30) and a lower extent (50) below the person's ankle bone but above the base of the heel, and between a forward extent (42, 46) towards the front of the person's leg and a rearward extent (44, 48) towards the rear of the person's leg. The shell has a portion (28) shaped to register the shell with respect to the person's ankle bone (30). The shell is bifurcated by a slot (60) extending from the upper extent towards the registration portion. By registering the shell with respect to the ankle bone, a better fit can be achieved. The bifurcation of the shell facilitates flexing of the shell so that it can adapt to the curvature of the surface of the leg, so as to provide a more comfortable fit of the shell and a more even pressure distribution than if the shell were not bifurcated.

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